



# The Northern Lights

Vol. 32, Issue 1

North Central High School, 1801 E. 86th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46240

Wednesday, September 2, 1987

## NC Initiates New Program

by Caroline Coons

Now in year two of implementing the International Baccalaureate program into North Central's curriculum, the general attitude of the implementers is one of great excitement.

The IB diploma will be offered to the class of 1990 upon graduation providing students have completed all of the necessary IB requirements. Those requirements include passing exams in English, foreign language, math, science, history, and an optional class such as art/design, classical language, or computer studies, writing a paper in the students choice of subjects, and completing 100 hours of study in Theory of Knowledge, finalizing the study with a paper.

Dr. Jan Guffin, English Department head and coordinator of the project, has been working diligently for the past year to hasten the incorporation of the IB program into the school curriculum. The result is, "The best education schedule we could put together," said Dr. Guffin.

In order to accommodate the IB students with this education, the school has found it necessary to add a few classes to the curriculum, but mostly to include new material in some inveterate classes. The history department will include advanced economics in its curriculum. The IB math program follows along with North Central's Accelerated Math program which ends in calculus and requires only a class called Math Studies to be added.

The IB English program corresponds with the Accelerated English program, requiring only that world literature's intense study be broadened with material from other geographical locations. The GT class, critical thinking, will be expounded upon to create Theory of Knowledge which is what Dr. Guffin describes as a "highbred" class and the "hub" of the entire IB

program. The main focus of the class is to examine the basic questions underlying any profession; thus, answer such questions as, "How do mathematicians think?"

Dr. Guffin said the school's goal with IB is not to be exclusive, but to engage as many people as possible and as a result, benefit the school as a whole. Miss Rowell, assistant principal and in charge of IB students scheduling, said the curriculum planning alone has been "uplifting, challenging, and has created a comradery among the staff." Dr. Guffin said, "The teachers are getting turned on to their subject matter again."

It's not only the IB students and North Central faculty that's benefiting. Dr. Guffin feels this new flow of information will reach the rest of school through teachers who want to incorporate some of this new knowledge into their classroom curriculum.

Although the class of 1989 can't graduate with an IB diploma, they will receive some of the benefits of the program. Those students in World literature will benefit with the new subject matter, others will have the opportunity to take advanced economics, and those so choosing will be able to take IB tests.

Dr. Guffin feels there are two other important advantages of IB. Because of its international acclaim, it will help to prepare students for their junior year abroad and it will offer foreign exchange students a curriculum they're familiar with without causing them to retake a year of schooling when they return home.

As of now, there are near 100 schools in the nation which offer the International Baccalaureate program. North Central is the first school in Indiana to provide its students with this innovative system of education. As Miss Rowell said, "We believe in giving kids the opportunity they need."



## To Russia and Back

by Marla Burt

What did you do this summer? Thirty-one students from North Central can answer this question by saying, "I spent three weeks in Russia." Initiative For Understanding, a program of People To People International, gave these students the opportunity to travel in as well as learn more about the Soviet Union and its people.

The trip lasted from June 29 through July 22. The first city visited was the largest in Russia, the capital, Moscow. "It is true—no one smiles in Moscow," said Sara Stone. The headquarters for the Russian Communist Party are located in Moscow; therefore, Sara described the atmosphere as being "tense, because we were so close to the central government."

Other cities visited were Batumi, Odessa, Minsk, Vilnius and Leningrad. "It was fascinating," commented Kathy Angell, "because the cities were all different. They each had their own culture and history." One thing each city had in common, though, was that "There were pictures of Lenin everywhere," Kathy said. Marc Baer stated that, "Their shrine for the whole country is Lenin's tomb. It's their hero." Sara adds, "It's their God."

"I never understood how suppressed religion was there until I saw closed churches..." reflected Sara. Kathy went on to explain that a lot of the churches were not in use and some were converted into atheist museums. Perhaps the most

disturbing aspect of the trip for Marc was that "the Torah was sitting in a museum like it was a thing of the past and that was sad."

Although the purpose of the trip was to further communication between our youth and that of the Soviet Union, Kathy noticed that "some were afraid to talk... It seemed as if they didn't want to talk to us, but we never knew if they just did not know what to say or if they couldn't speak English." Kathy also pointed out that they basically only had the opportunity to talk to kids who were older or younger, few who were the same age. "When you talked to them, you weren't sure if the answers that they were giving you were what they really wanted to say or if someone had prompted them to answer that way," she said.

After visiting the Soviet Union, Marc feels that "the fear of communism is justified." As for Russia being a class-less society, Sara points out that this can't be true because "In Russia, if you're poor, you're very poor. If you're rich, you get lots and lots of benefits." "Six-year-old kids are inundated with communism," added Marc, "they played war games with chocolate bullets." Marc believes that the Russian people do not necessarily believe in the system, but they accept it as a part of their history, so "You sell your soul and join the party."

As for the food in Russia, Marc mentioned chicken necks, sour

cream to drink, fat, and hotdogs and peas for breakfast. Sara remembers cabbage, "mystery meat," potatoes, cucumbers, and tomatoes. "They kept putting ice-water on our tables even though they knew that we couldn't drink their water," said Kathy who also added, "The first place that I went when I got home was McDonalds."

"It seemed like they were always looking at us—always wondering what we were doing," commented Kathy. The Russians wore dark colored clothing, so "They knew we were Americans by our appearance. We wore bright colors," said Kathy. "They couldn't seem to understand why we were always smiling and talking... They wouldn't smile for anything."

What do Russians do for fun? The students were fortunate enough to be able to see the Moscow circus and an opera. There are also many ballets in Russia. One of Kathy's favorite experiences on the trip was dancing with the Lithuanians. "They knew we were foreigners, but they accepted us."

The students who were a part of the American-Soviet Youth Exchange undoubtedly had a once-in-a-lifetime experience. They were able to learn to appreciate the freedoms and opportunities that are so much a part of our lives. "You hear a lot about Russia, but it is best to have first-hand experience so that you can understand the country and its people better," Kathy concluded, "It is just a whole other life... It's so different from ours."



## Editorial Policy

The staff of *The Northern Lights* is looking forward to serving and expressing the views of North Central students this year.

This paper, beginning its 32nd year, is published bi-weekly by students of North Central to inform, entertain and stimulate student thought. The paper will serve as a bridge between students, faculty and the community to relay information about events, activities, personalities and issues. A balanced account of the news will be published without any personal bias included.

The purpose of the editorial page is to voice the opinion of the staff and the readers. All articles without a byline on the editorial page are the opinion of the Editorial Board which consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor and the page editors. Articles with a by-line express only the individual view of the writer.

*The Northern Lights* will serve as an open forum for students to express their views. Therefore, the staff encourages letters to the editor giving readers the opportunity to voice their opinions.

If a letter written by a student, faculty or member of the community contains libelous or obscene material, or encourages illegal acts, it will not be published. All letters to the editor should be approximately 350 words in length and include a signature to be considered for publication. Letters to editor turned in become property of *The Northern Lights*.

Other stories published by the paper will be written by a member of staff or a student of beginning journalism. Excluding letters to the editor, no other articles may be published without the permission of the Editorial Board and the advisor.

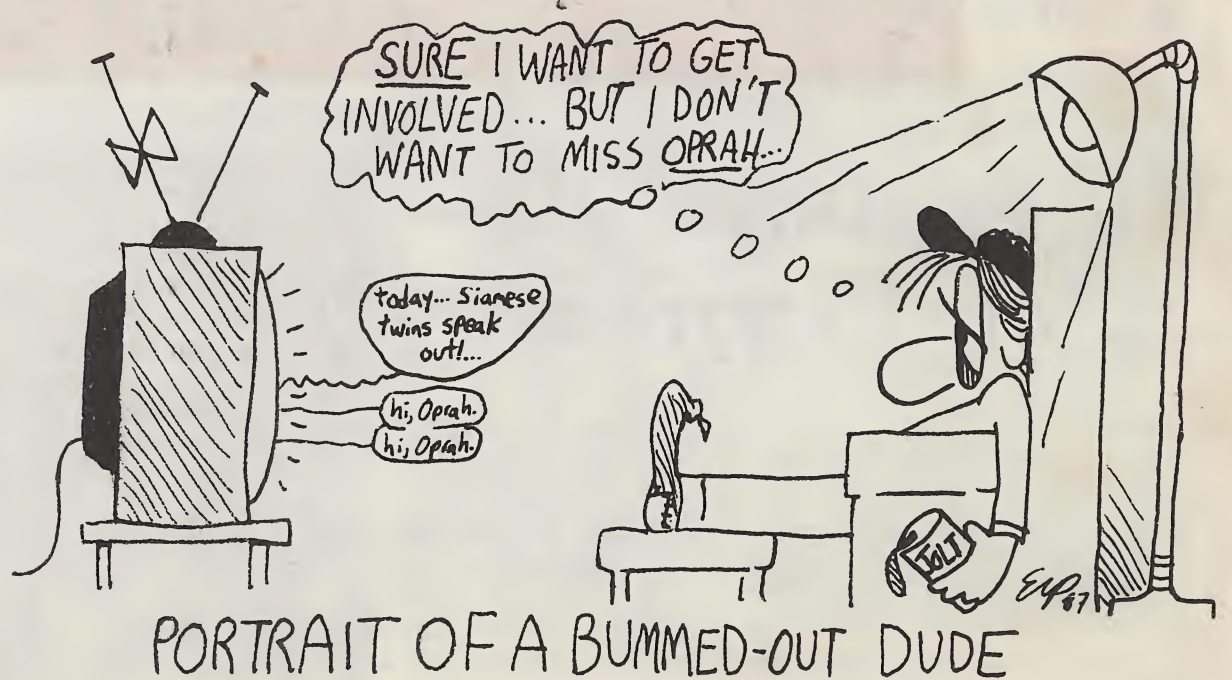
To become a member of *The Northern Lights*, one must complete one semester of beginning journalism and be approved by the advisor. All letters and student suggestions should be delivered to G609 and are welcomed to insure the success of *The Northern Lights* this year.

*The Northern Lights* does not recognize prior restraint.

## The Northern Lights

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Editor-in-Chief ..... Andrew Libby  
 Managing Editor ..... Mike Mattler  
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## Don't be a loser — Get involved!

by David Leonard

Apathy and ignorance are the two major factors contributing to today's average American high school student's "do-nothing" attitude. This attitude is very dangerous because the future of this country lies in the hands of today's youth, namely the reader of this editorial.

Too many students feel that the phrase "I don't care" is a very essential part of their vocabulary if they are to be a member of the "in" crowd. A good number of these socially necessitated apathetic students are also the incessant complainers who criticize everything, but chronically take no action to remedy the target of their complaints.

This attitude of apathy, unfortunately, usually leads to a further attitude of "what I don't know won't hurt me," which promotes excessive ignorance in the uncaring individual. This apathetically inspired lack of knowledge of the surrounding environment is very detrimental to the success of anyone; it can result in many missed opportunities and can earn the person an idiotic image in the eyes of his peers.

A sure cure for apathy and ignorance is extracurricular involvement. As stressed in another article on this page, North Central is a school of immense diversity. Because of this diversity, there are endless advantageous opportunities for out of school involve-

ment. There is something for everyone.

A very common excuse for not getting involved in a certain club or organization is "only nerds join that club," or "I don't have time." What a weak cop-out! If you don't like the people in the club, then get a bunch of friends to join, or even go as far as forming your own special interest organization. Also, there are very few people who don't have time or who can't make the time.

This editorial isn't meant to sound like a paternal lecture, but to convey one very important message: DON'T BE A LOSER! There is more to school than going to class all day. Get involved, meet new people, and have a little fun in the process.

## Vietnam interpretations differ

by Andrew Cupp

With two Vietnam films coming out in the last year, over a decade since America's involvement ended, one must wonder, "Why now?" Movies like "Full Metal Jacket" and "Platoon" may be out for many reasons. The most likely reason these films are out, however, is to inform movie goers about the Vietnam conflict.

The purpose of the new Vietnam films is only known truly by the film makers, but of course, each viewer gets something different. A few viewers may simply see "Platoon" or "Full Metal Jacket" as entertaining, and nothing more, although this is

unlikely. Most audience members, though, will see recent Vietnam movies as something more than entertainment. Most people see a strong political statement and a general message about war.

However, the political statement is understood differently by various viewers. A person could view "Platoon" and see a strong pro-Vietnam statement, but by the same token, a strong anti-war message is present. Whatever the message, the films are both said to be harsh realities.

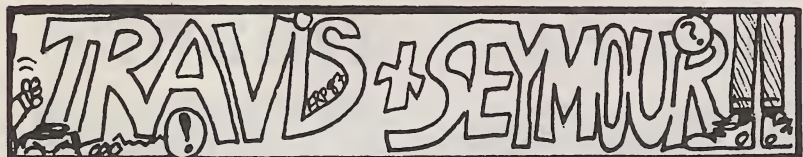
A lot of what has been shown in "Platoon" or "Full Metal Jacket" or any other serious Vietnam movie is material that would rather be forgotten by some and left in the

past. This, however, is not fair to the younger audience who looks to these films as an important source of information and interpretation of the Vietnam conflict.

Another benefit of the popular new Vietnam films is the passage of time. The time factor has enabled the movies' creators to gain a more educated and mature opinion of the Vietnam conflict. These new opinions may also be shared among the movie goers.

Although the reasons movies like "Platoon" and "Full Metal Jacket" were made may vary, it is obvious these films were popular. And if these serious Vietnam films are as accurate as the critics say, then they should be seen.





**Travis:** Hi! I'm Travis.  
**Seymour:** And I'm Seymour. We're "Travis and Seymour." You guessed it! We're back!  
**T** We'd like to offer greetings to all returning students, and for all you freshmen out there... get ready for the worst year of your lives.  
**S** Whoa, Trav. That's a little harsh. Anyway, we'd better get to reviewing, since this is a review column.  
**T** We've had all summer to brush up on our humor, so get ready for a veritable potpourri of fun and frolic in this edition.  
**S** Now we are going to review what we thought were some of the best movies of the summer.  
**T** Or at least some of the better known ones.  
**S** My personal favorite was "Roxanne."  
**T** ROXANNE!!!!... You don't have to turn on the red light!  
**S** Yea, right Trav. That's some real sophisticated humor there. Your rapier wit slays me. Anyway, leave it to Steve Martin to take an old classic and rehash it into a modern comedy. He takes familiar ideas and makes them more appealing... just like Shakespeare.  
**T** You freshmen will learn about him soon. I think you liked it because the sleek and sultry Daryl Hannah was in it.  
**S** Okay, fine. What was your favorite film, Mr. Smarty Pants.  
**T** My summer pick was "The Untouchables."  
**S** What's that about? Your underwear?  
**T** This moving story about good versus evil in the 1930's gangland Chicago grabbed hold of me and never let go.  
**S** That's also what happens when you get too close to his underwear.  
**T** Although the movie hints at the familiar idea that good becomes as corrupt as evil in its conflict against it, this film still delivers excitement and energy. You cower at the malevolent Robert DeNiro as Al Capone, and you cheer for Eliot Ness, played by Kevin Costner. This summer also featured many other cinematic works.  
**S** Yeah, and there were also a bunch of great movies.  
**T** James Bond is back, better than ever in "The Living Daylights," featuring Timothy Dalton as the new 007.  
**S** The new Bond is a grittier and more serious replacement for the comical, overbearing, and aging Roger Moore.  
**T** And in this movie Bond is monogamous.  
**S** Yeah, Trav. Who could be a better spokesman for the new age of AIDS-inspired sexual restraint than James Bond.  
**T** Although the villain came across as bland and uninteresting, Bond pulls through with the same gadgets and life threatening stunts that enthrall us every time.  
**S** I saw "Spaceballs." Mel Brooks is back, and at his worst. His farcical, slapstick humor is finally boring audiences.  
**T** Was it really that bad?  
**S** I only laughed twice, and once was when the guy sitting next to me spilled his drink on his lap.  
**T** No laughs can be found in "River's Edge," a disturbing, fact-based drama about a small town's teenage drug culture and the ghastly murder they try to cover up. There are no sympathetic characters here. Whether it's Dennis Hopper as the drug dealing hermit or Crispin Glover as a speed freak, these pathetic personae reveal to us the morbid, darker goings-on of our world.  
**S** But was it a good movie?  
**T** Can you readers believe I don't get paid for working with Seymour here?  
**S** So there you have it! Some of the best from the summer of 1987. Well, almost some of the best... we did after all mention "Spaceballs."  
**T** We'd like to wish you all a rip-roarin' good year. And if anyone out there has any requests, opinions, or ideas...  
**S** Or if you just want to swap recipes...  
**T** Just drop a letter off at the "Northern Lights" office.  
**S** So until next time...  
**T** Stay clean...  
**S** Or don't.

## Campbell aims high

by Julie Bradford

He's cool and classy. He's armed with new ideas and dangerous to anyone that stands in his way of making this year the best year yet at NC. He has a support group made up of hand-picked chairpersons and his right hand vice-president, Eric Owens, is always at his side. He's Student Council President. Steve Campbell. What more is there to say?

How about his plans for the 1987-88 school year? Like extending the sack lunch sales (including a deli sandwich, chips, a dessert, and a drink) to all lunch periods. And planning to continue the ever popular donut sales. Then there are his plans to create simpler spirit days (similar to school colors day and hat and shades day) so that more of the student body can participate.

Campbell's been collaborating with his Interschool Affairs committee chairperson, Marlo Klain, on the freshman orientation and a program for incoming students in which they would receive a guided tour of NC from a student volunteer before they actually begin to attend classes.

Due to this year's early Homecoming (September 21-25), Campbell, Owens, and the committee chairpersons are already busy at work but no definite plans have been announced (except for the Homecoming game Friday, September 25, vs. Warren Central).

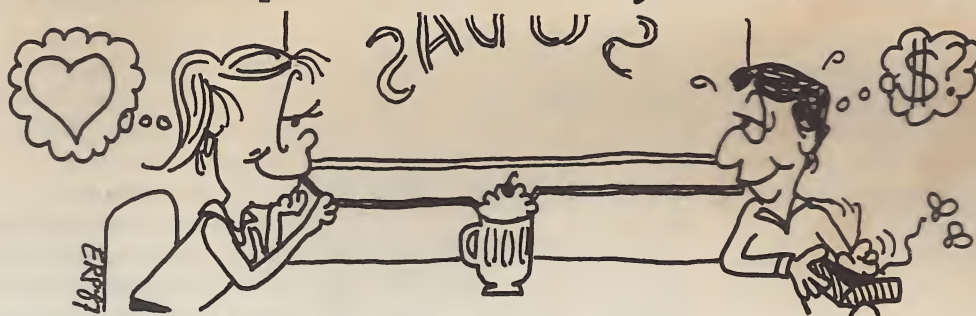
With the eagerness and confidence already shown this year by the Student Council and its leaders, the 1987-88 school year should be a great one!

### Committee Chairpersons

**Campus** Clark Zimmerman  
**Constitution/Evaluation** Audrey Querns  
**Cultural** Mike Mattler and John Pratt  
**Curriculum** Lauren Goldblatt  
**Faculty Evaluation** Andrew Libby  
**Finance, Library & Cafeteria** Paul Yonover  
**Grievance** Diane Krahulik  
**Interschool Affairs** Marlo Klain  
**Publicity** Deidra Fair and Eric R. Pfeffinger  
**Recognition** Bonnie Mill  
**Social** Chicca Doddoli & Jennifer Epstein  
**Spirit** Kristi Spears, Joel Andrew Palmer

## Entertaining Evenings

*That don't put a dent in your wallet!*



You've got a really hot date tonight, and you want to make a good impression and start what just could be the love of your life off on the right foot. You want to do something entertaining (of course) and maybe a little unique. In other words, you want to have fun with flair. It might be suggested that you check out one of the many new nightclubs downtown, but in this situation that's probably out of the question. It's also tough when you're faced with the problem most of us unelligible night club goers are, you're short of cash. There's always the old standby, dinner and a movie, but these days that has become expensive. Movie tickets are \$5.50 apiece, so two tickets and dinner can be around \$30.00. And it still lacks that touch of flair. The solution? Take the traditional dinner and movie date, and add your own personal touch.

If you've got a VCR and a kitchen, you can have a romantic evening for two on a very low budget. Make dinner together at

home and rent a movie. Most grocery stores now have a selection of films to rent, so it is possible to do the shopping for the meal and rent the movie in one trip. You don't have to fix anything spectacular—shish kabobs and fondue are two relatively easy dishes that are also a lot of fun. Since you make it together, neither of you has to be too embarrassed if it doesn't turn out too well. To set the mood, you'll probably want candles and a romantic movie, (anything with Greta Garbo should suffice).

Now here's an idea that would appeal to any true Romantic. Picture this: a crisp autumn night, the two of you sitting on a warm blanket with a picnic basket full of good food and the twinkling stars in the nighttime sky overhead. With a setting like that, who wants a movie? All you need is a blanket, a picnic basket with dinner inside, a radio turned into Night Light Love Songs, and you're set for a wonderfully romantic evening.

For the more active couple, Indianapolis' variety of sports complexes offer an entertaining night. The Pan Am Plaza will have an indoor ice-skating ring open to the public, and there is usually something going on at the Natatorium and Velodrome. The "Let's Go" Section in the Sunday Indianapolis Star lists the week's events.

There are several restaurants in the downtown area that offer moderately priced meals. The Old Spaghetti Factory is one, and there is always the food court in Union Station, which offers a lively atmosphere and is close to the games on the Midway. The way Indianapolis is picking up, you can easily make an entire evening out of going downtown as a couple or a group.

Oh, one more suggestion. If you're really low on cash, but just can't resist a Romantic dinner for two, McDonald's by candle light is charming.



## Boys' cross country readies for performance

by Steve Campbell

The North Central boys' cross country team has been one of the most successful teams at North Central, but they have remained somewhat unsung. However, they need not be unsung, for this team has started to gain constant respect around North Central and around the state.

This upswing started last year with an outstanding season. The team won several invitationals throughout the season. Then the team finished second in the sectionals to Carmel and then won the regional title for the first time in almost two decades. However, many members of that squad will not be here this year due to graduation. The team lost graduates like all stater Matt Huettner, Dan Scott and Eric Rahe. However, it is certain that the team will bounce back, like always.

However, the most important factor is this year's team. The

squad will be led by returning all-state senior Brent Ellis. Ellis finished an excellent 22nd out of all the runners in the state meet. Brent will be joined on the squad by his twin brother Brian. Both have proven themselves as excellent and experienced runners. In addition to the Ellises, the team will have many seniors on the squad, such as Steve Elliot, Charles Smith and Marty Hedlund. One fine performer from last year, junior Lanny Allen, will return this year.

The Panthers are coached by Mr. Vern Wille and assistant coach Mr. Rick Stover. Coaches Wille and Stover led the Panthers into the season on August 26 against Kokomo and then on the 29th with a Hokum Karem. Today, the Panthers will have a triangular meet against Bloomington South High School and Southport, at Southport. On September 5, the runners have another triangular meet against Pike and Hokum



The cross country team is looking for many wins this season as a hard practice takes place.

Karem. The following week they will run against Broad Ripple.

The team will definitely have one meet set in their sights, and that is the state meet November 7. The Panthers finished 5th last year and hope to do even better this year.

## Football season promising

by Steve Campbell

One of the biggest and longest traditions at North Central is the Friday night football games. That tradition will continue with this year's squad.

The team is somewhat recovering from the loss of many of last year's seniors. Familiar names like Scott Boatman, Hans Confer, and Corey and Henry Corbitt will not be in the line-up. But the seniors of last year will be replaced by loads of talent, both on the offensive and defensive squad.

North Central has long been praised for its successful defense. The Panthers have a returning all-state defensive and offensive tackle in senior Louis Craig. Along with Craig, the Panthers will be led by several other seniors, such as defensive back Tony Rice who is also a wide receiver, and Willie Taylor at linebacker. Two seniors who played most of last year, Jay Blakey and Derek Cheeseborough, will add much depth to the talented defensive squad.

The team will have a relatively young offense. The offense will be led by three juniors, Craig Knox, Tim Denny, and Aaron Shelby. Knox and Denny will be vying for the ever important quarterback position. Shelby, who was a starter most of last year, will be returning to the line-up as a tight end. Senior fullback Alan Myers

will give the backfield much needed strength and experience.

The coach of the Panthers, Mr. George Pappas, says, "In addition to all of those guys, we have many, many guys who are out here working real hard to make this team good."

The Panthers first tested their squad at the annual jamboree. The Panthers competed against the past two state 5A champions, Warren Central and ever-present rival Carmel, and Noblesville. Then the team had their annual match-up

with Carmel at home. After those, the Panthers have several other home games against Chatard, Arsenal Tech, and the Homecoming game against Warren Central on September 25.

The Panther squad is a very diverse one that combines many young players with experienced seniors. This combination should prove interesting during the course of the season. Hopefully, the team will have the same support and success that they have had in past years.



The defense will be a deciding factor for the Panther football team this year.

## Standing behind the Mike

## World of sports also asking ethics questions

by Mike Mattler

The past year has been one in which the personal ethics of many have come into scrutiny under a national spotlight. Names such as Oliver North, Ivan Boesky, Jim and Tammy Bakker, and Gary Hart have come to the forefront as the nation searches for reasons explaining the actions of each.

The world of sports is not much different from the worlds of Washington and Wall Street; this is being proven as athletes and the bodies which govern them begin to struggle with ethical questions of their own.

Such debates have lingered for years in sports circles and are now being rekindled due to recent developments in baseball. Pitchers in both of baseball's major leagues—Joe Niekro of the Minnesota Twins and Kevin Gross of the Philadelphia Phillies—are facing suspension for illegally doctoring the baseball with sandpaper. More such action may be forthcoming as managers begin to look more closely at suspicious ball movement from certain pitchers. Also being examined in this summer of increased home run output is the use of illegal cork-centered bats.

Baseball, however, does not hold a monopoly on unethical behavior among its players. Officials at the recent Pan American Games conducted tests to uncover many illegal substances which athletes may have used in order to enhance their ability to perform. Such tests have unfortunately become necessary as potentially dangerous substances including anabolic steroids have emerged as a seemingly routine part of many athletes' training programs.

In light of these instances and others similar to them, one must wonder where athletics are headed. The days in which athletes were driven toward success by a healthy desire to improve and a love for their particular sport seem to have vanished. Today, athletes appear to be more concerned with the high priced contracts and endorsement deals which success can bring them than simply with the satisfaction of success itself. This greed has caused many to jeopardize their health both present and future as well as their ethical sense of right and wrong. Those unwilling to make such sacrifices are often forced to leave the sports which they love.

The time has come for a serious commitment to clean up sports on all levels—high school, college and professional. Rules have been established to protect athletes and insure fair play, and until they are more vigorously enforced, the world of sports will continue to suffer. Once athletes are taken out of a system which makes them choose between their sports and their health, and instead taught to abide by the rules rather than get around them, everyone involved will end up the better.